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ABSTRACT

The myth that only the high school student who is at or near the top of his class can succeed at a four-year college is not upheld for graduates of Laguna-Acoma High School (LAHS) in New Mexico. Many sources provide accurate gradepoint averages (GPA), American College Test (ACT) scores and Rank in Class (RIC) for the LAHS students who took the ACT and/or entered a four-year college between 1964 and 1972. The GPA and RIC of the college bound students varies widely and only 26% of the LAHS graduates have taken the ACT, which probably represents an insignificant sample for measuring college retention. LAHS students do, however, fit all five categories of students who, according to ACT representatives, tend to do poorly on the test. For LAHS graduates, neither the test scores nor GPA can significantly determine who goes to college or completes a baccalaureate. Compared with retention figures supplied from the University of New Mexico (the largest university in the state), LAHS graduates have a 10% higher college retention rate than the general student body at the University. The paper concludes with a listing of 174 LAHS graduates' rank in class, grade point average, ACT scores, notations as to college entry, completion, or present enrollment, and a list of LAHS graduates who have received baccalaureate degrees. (SB)

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A FOLLOW-UP STUDY
OF
GRADUATES OF LAGUNA-ACOMA HIGH SCHOOL
WHO
TOOK ACT AND/OR ENTERED
A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE PROGRAM

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Laguna-Acoma High School

Grants Municipal Schools

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INTRODUCTION

This paper has been researched and written regarding students who either took the American College Test or entered four-year colleges, or both.

The writer has contacted many sources to gather the following information and is convinced that this information is as accurate as it can be made at this time.

RETENTION IN FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

Dr. Potter, Assistant Dean at the University College of the University of New Mexico gave the following retention figures at UNM:

Of students who entered in any given fall, 88 to 87% remain for the second semester.

Of these same students, 65 to 70% remain for their second year.

Of these same students, 50% remain for their third year.

Of these same students, 15% (of the original class) complete in four years.

From Laguna-Acoma, of graduates from 1964 through 1968, 59 students began college upon completion of high school. Of these 59 students, 15 have received baccalaureate degrees -- 25% -- 10% better than the retention of New Mexico's largest university.

Of the graduates of Laguna-Acoma from 1969 through 1972, 91 students began college immediately after graduation. Currently--2nd semester in the spring of 1973--59 of these 91 students are still in college. This is 54%.

Of the graduates of Laguna-Acoma from 1964 through 1972, of the students who did not begin college immediately after graduation, 5 are either in college in the 1972-73 school year or actively preparing to enter in 1973-74. Of students who did not complete in four years, 4 are either now back in college or preparing to return in 1973-74.

Following is a break-down by classes of the previous discussion:

Class year	Number in Class	Number to college	% of class to college	Number finishing college	% of those who began college
1964	60	6	10	1	17
1965	63	8	13	4	35
1966	60	18	30	7	39
1967	82	15	18	2	13
1968	68	12	17	1	8
1969	82	22	27	7*	32*
1970	69	19	22	9*	47*
1971	58	32	42	17*	73*
1972	72	27	37	26*	96*

*indicates that these students are in college 2nd semester, 72-73 school year.

WHICH STUDENTS SUCCEED IN COLLEGE?

The writer has noticed for some time that a myth regarding who succeeds in college is quite commonly accepted in this community as well as in the nation at large. This myth is that only the high school student who is at or near the top of his class can succeed at a four-year college. In order to put this myth to rest--at least in regard to Laguna-Acoma graduates--figures were compiled showing average grade-point averages (GPA) and also rank in class (RIC) for both those who began college and those who finished. The table immediately below shows these results:

Class year	Ave. GPA of those beginning college	Ave. RIC of those beginning college	Ave. GPA of those finishing college	Ave. RIC of those finishing college
1964	2.974	12	2.625	15
1965	2.942	11	2.911	12
1966	2.911	16	3.463	5
1967	2.577	15	2.461	15
1968	2.594	17	2.419	20
1969	2.744	19	2.891*	19*
1970	2.721	15	2.748*	13*
1971	2.942	17	2.669*	21*
1972	2.661	24	2.629*	25*

*denotes students who are presently enrolled in college

ACT SCORES AND COLLEGE RETENTION--ARE SCORES SIGNIFICANT?

Limitations of this study: Of the nine classes which have been graduated from Laguna-Acoma, a total of 169 students have taken the American College Tests; this is 26% of the total graduates of Laguna-Acoma. The writer thinks the number of 169 students may be too small to be significant statistically.

Representatives of the American College Testing Program report that students who come from the following groups ordinarily score low on their tests: 1) students from a minority which speaks other than English as a native language, 2) students from a minority culture, 3) students from a poverty area, 4) students from a rural area, 5) students whose parents have a lower level of educational attainment.

A survey of students at Laguna-Acoma would show the following: 1) Some students and their parents speak English in their homes, but all come from villages where major business or discussion is usually transacted in another language than English. 2) All come from villages where most citizens are of minority cultures. 3) One student from the class of 1965 was from the majority culture with a high income in the family. One student from the class of 1971 was from the majority culture with a middle income. Laguna-Acoma has been officially designated a poverty area since the opening of the school in 1962. 4) All students live in rural areas. 5) A questionaire asking for voluntary reporting on educational level of parents administered to sixty seniors showed an average of ninth grade education for fathers and tenth grade education for mothers.

The table on the following page indicates average composite scores made by students who have taken the American College Test and also show the average composite scores of those beginning and those finishing (or presently enrolled in) college. Students in the class of 1965 did not take the American College Test, but did take the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Scores for these students were converted to ACT composite scores by use of the table compiled by Clinton I. Chase and L. Spencer Barritt, published in 1966.

Class Year	Number taking ACT	% of class taking ACT	Average "C" scores	Ave. "C" beginning college	Ave. "C" finishing college
1964	no records of test scores				
1965	7	11	18	19	20
1966	16	27	14	14	15
1967	19	22	13	13	12
1968	15	22	12	12	9
1969	31	37	14	15*	15*
1970	24	35	14	15*	13*
1971	29	50	14	15*	13*
1972	28	39	12	13	12*

*denotes students who are presently enrolled in college

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In answer to the charge that Laguna-Acoma graduates do not stay in college, it appears that a greater percentage of them do stay in college than is generally true at the largest university in the state.

In answer to the charge that Laguna-Acoma graduates make low scores on the American College Test, one must conclude that this charge is true. However, there seems to be valid justification because many students from low ranks in class-standing attempt the test.

It appears that neither test scores nor grade-point averages are determining factors as to who goes to college or who completes a baccalaureate degree.

Information on individual test scores and also on students earning baccalaureate degrees is on the following pages.

Student#	RIC	GPA	ACT SCORES E M S N C	BEGAN COLLEGE	FINISHED COLLEGE	PRESENTLY ENROLLED
1	1	3.718	17-07-23-21-17	X		
2	10	2.676	19-11-23-14-17			
3	22	2.405	23	X	X	
4	7	3.000	12-21-14-22-17	X		X
5	9	2.744	21-16-18-25-20	X		
6	6	3.083	18-14-06-09-12	X		
7	8	3.270	20-06-16-19-15	X		X
8	3	3.236	06-11-03-15-09	X		
9	19	2.666	08-06-06-03-06	X		
10	2	3.721	19-22-24-20-21	X		X
11	23	2.528	16-14-06-12-12	X		
12	38	1.935	12-10-07-15-11			
13	31	2.371	05-16-04-07-08			
14	6	3.044	19-09-12-19-15	X		
15	51	2.000	07-09-06-03-06	X		X
16	33	2.317	13-16-14-16-15	X		X
17	13	2.881	15	X		X
18	30	2.325	13-10-04-07-09	X		
19	4	3.000	14-23-16-17-18	X		
20	1	3.614	22-16-17-22-19	X		X
21	2	3.556	16	X	X	
22	1	3.923	21	X	X	
23	16	2.692	17-14-04-14-12	X		X
24	6	2.909	18-14-14-18-16	X		
25	61	1.674		X		X
26	24	2.527	16-16-04-13-12	X		
27	46	1.743	04-14-08-14-10			
28	21	2.375	12-14-16-20-16	X		X
29	1	3.378	15-14-08-09-12	X		
30	27	2.707	15-16-07-13-13			
31	7	3.275	16-28-22-20-22	X		X
32	4	3.290	17-19-14-12-16	X		X
33	10	2.900	12-16-18-17-16	X		X
34	42	1.900	09-01-05-13-07	X		
35	13	2.619	14-14-24-24-19	X		X

36	5	3.457	18-11-17-11-14	X	X	
37	1	3.987	20-20-15-15-18	X		X
38	32	2.359	11-14-07-18-13	X		X
39	3	3.756	19-18-16-12-16	X	X	X
40	6	3.244	16-18-18-16-17	X		X
41	22	2.382	13	X		
42	68	1.666	15-14-04-09-11			
43	16	2.656	18-18-16-17-17	X		X
44	12	3.027	12-16-17-16-15	X		
45	30	2.103	13-13-04-05-09	X		
46	18	2.555	15-08-19-16-15	X		
47	3	3.114	13-14-14-18-15	X		X
48	14	2.581	10-01- 5-09-06	X		
49	15	2.195	12-16-11-11-13			
50	20	2.561	12-08-15-16-13	X		
51	25	2.500	09-11-09-15-11	X		X
52	16	2.725	21-25-19-23-22	X		
53	30	2.356		X		X
54	17	2.523	19-14-08-15-14	X		
55	21	2.444	09-15-08-13-11	X		
56	24	2.162	15-02-06-10-08	X		
57	5	3.325	22-15-07-12-14	X		X
58	29	2.421	17-14-10-12-13	X		
59	13	2.583	13-05-01-07-07			
60	15	2.579	10-02-17-15-11	X		X
61	24	2.268	11-09-10-15-11	X		
62	20	2.545	10-12-20-18-15	X		
63	55	1.703	13-12-04-05-09			
64	34	1.941	16-02-18-12-12			
65	4	3.450	27-23-25-22-24	X		X
66	18	2.681	09-03-08-04-06			
67	3	3.171	17-14-22-17-18	X		
68	51	2.048	11-15-06-12-11	X		X
69	10	3.171	18-18-25-21-21	X		
70	2	3.307	21-18-19-24-21	X		X
71	19	2.303	14-10-12-15-13	X	X	

72.	20	2.433	20-18-20-20-20	X		
73	13	2.769	12-13-11-15-13	X		X
74			Omit			
75	40	2.075	07-13-09-15-11	X		
76	12	2.933	14-15-06-14-12	X		X
77	23	2.583	19-14-15-14-16			
78	3	3.454	16-20-18-17-18	X		
79	10	2.689	13-10-16-22-15	X		
80	24	2.511	14-04-06-12-09	X		X
81	1	3.686	24	X	X	
82	47	1.793	09-01-08-15-08			
83	22	2.619	07-14-05-11-09	X		X
84	39	2.100	16-11-05-02-09	X		
85	2	3.481	20-19-22-30-23	X		
86	57	1.641	11-13-02-13-10			
87	6	3.035	12-14-09-10-11	X		
88	19	2.441	08-11-11-01-08	X		
89	5	3.268	13-13-11-18-14	X		X
90	9	3.045	17-09-03-13-11	X		X
91	37	2.146	10-14-06-10-10	X		X
92	30	2.256	11-13-10-14-12	X		X
93	32	2.325	17-15-17-21-18			
94	68	1.108	07-10-05-13-09	X		X
95	17	2.589	12-20-24-19-19	X		
96	18	2.641	13-14-08-12-12			
97	14	2.548	13-02-15-15-11			
98	2	3.500	25-17-23-24-22			
99	34	2.272	14-14-08-13-12	X		X
100	11	3.028	16-15-06-17-14			
101	8	2.953	15-11-07-16-12	X		X
102	18	2.690	10-09-10-17-12	X		X
103	5	3.048	10-20-14-14-15	X		X
104	38	2.263	09-10-06-15-10	X		
105	28	2.090	16-13-12-22-16	X		
106	11	2.978	17-17-05-16-14	X		X
107	15	2.714	04-08-09-13-09	X		X
108	9	2.952	12-03-06-15-09	X		X
109	26	2,103	12-05-13-16-12			

110	14	2.761	17-09-14-13-13	X		X
111			Omit			
112	35	2.268	14-13-08-12-12	X		X
113	1	3.731	18-20-19-13-18	X		
114	27	2.404	10-12-19-14-14			
115	38	2.113	14-09-08-12-11			
116	32	2.194	12-13-06-16-12	X		
117	3	3.500	16-15-12-25-17	X		X
118	24	2.400	09-13-10-13-11			
119	26	2.421	08-10-03-06-07	X		
120	5	3.222	18-17-10-14-13	X		X
121	3	3.307	22-06-13-11-13	X		X
122	44	2.166	07-14-08-08-09	X		X
123	21	2.579	16-12-19-17-16	X		
124	21	2.540	14-17-17-14-16			
125	8	2.946	19-18-14-10-15	X		
126	21	2.643	14-08-03-07-08			
127	4	3.375	23-17-26-27-23	X		
128	67	1.697	14-04-07-14-10			
129	26	2.489	19-13-06-11-12	X		X
130	2	3.902	21-11-22-10-16	X	X	
131	4	3.595	19-04-19-11-13	X		
132	11	2.620	08-11-05-15-10	X	X	
133	5	3.028	11-03-17-18-12	X		
134	32	2.085	15-11-09-09-11			
135	7	2.875	14-03-11-16-11	X		
136	45	2.153	12-16-19-12-13	X		
137	10	2.820	16-15-12-13-14	X		X
138	6	3.327	17-21-15-18-18	X		X
139	59	1.719	09-02-06-07-06	X		X
140	45	2.097	12-09-10-10-10	X		X
141	40	2.025	10-05-05-07-07			
142	15	2.432	15-16-19-19-17	X		
143	48	2.004 - no record		X		X
144	25	2.500	19-12-13-12-14	X		
145	33	2.000	17-05-12-14-12			
146	53	1.540	08-16-12-10-12			

147	42	1.800	15-06-12-16-12				
148	14	2.676	14-14-16-07-13	X			X
149	9	3.000	17-13-13-13-14	X	X		
150	19	2.682	17-01-06-01-06				
151	23	2.402	07-10-12-13-11				
152	17	2.707	18-15-18-16-17	X			X
153	8	2.805	08-15-16-11-13	X			
154	11	2.700	09-16-18-15-15	X			
155	14	2.829	16-06-10-17-12	X			X
156	15	2.606	08-14-13-14-12				
157	27	2.428	15-11-15-20-15	X			X
158	8	3.146	19-19-18-20-19	X			X
159	7	3.194	20-16-19-07-16	X			X
160	39	1.939	16-15-18-16-16	X			
161	26	2.333	06-17-13-18-14	X			
162	25	2.500	09-13-07-09-10	X			
163	25	2.352	14-15-04-14-12	X			X
164	13	2.769	09-15-05-06-09	X			X
165	10	2.967	16-01-13-07-09	X	X		
166	20	2.419	13-15-04-02-09	X			X
167	12	2.822	07-08-04-12-08	X			
168	9	3.194	20-25-17-16-20	X			
169	4	3.050	10-20-19-14-16	X			X
170	20	2.651	03-10-06-19-10	X			X
171	41	2.050	13-14-20-18-16	X			X
172	22	2.555	18-10-17-18-16	X			X
173	14	2.718	18-07-08-11-11	X			X
174	18	2.352	15-05-23-15-15	X			

GRADUATES OF LAGUNA-ACOMA WHO HAVE RECEIVED BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Class Year	Name of Student	Institution	Degree	Ethnic Background
1964	Anthony Peters	Western NMU	B.S.	Laguna
1965	Lloyd Alexander	NM Inst. of M&T	B.S.	Anglo
	Balti Baca	U of Denver	B.A.	Spanish
	Ethel Cerno	Loretta Hgts	B.S.	Laguna
	Gerald Kie	S. Colo. St. Col.	B.A.	Laguna
1966	Margaret Cerno	Colo. Col.	B.A.	Laguna
	Genevieve Correa	Highlands U.	B.A.	Laguna
	Georgia Dailey	NMIMT	B.S.	Laguna
	Darva Randolph	NMSU	B.S.	Acoma
	JoAnn Sarracino	NMSU	B.A.	Laguna
	Laura Vallo	Western NMU	B.A.	Acoma
	Lois Vallo	Ft. Lewis	B.A.	Acoma
1967	Emmett Hunt, Jr.	Western NMU	B.A.	Laguna
	Carolyn Ray	Highlands U.	B.A.	Acoma
The following are in their last semester of work at the listed colleges:				
1968	Neva Vallo	Highlands U.		Acoma
1969	Elisa Apodaca	UNM		Spanish
	Nicholas Cheromiah	UNM		Laguna
	Georgia Garcia	BYU		Acoma
	Shirley Histia	Western NMU		Acoma
	Pauline Pino	UNM		Laguna
	Marilyn (Riley) Cheromiah	UNM		Laguna
	Timothy Sarracino	Western NMU		Laguna